


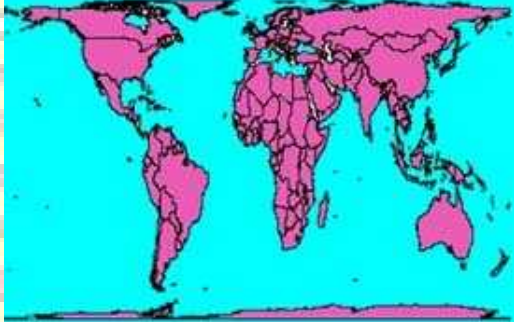
1. Cartography: Mapmaking

From the last task, you should have learned that every map of the world has one big problem: it is trying to turn a sphere into a flat piece of paper. This is impossible (try peeling an orange and then flattening out the skin so that it makes a rectangle and you will see what I mean!).

To make all the places fit neatly onto a rectangular piece of paper, map makers can do one of two things:

1. Keep the shape of each country, but change its size (= scale it up or down)
2. Keep the size of each country, but change its shape (= stretch or squash it).

Either way, you end up with a distorted view of the world!

The Mercator projection Keep the shape of each country, but change its size	The Peters projection Keep the size of each country, but change its shape
	

Questions and Tasks

If you lived in Africa, which projection would you prefer to use, and why?

If you lived in Greenland, which projection would you prefer to use, and why?

If you were a sailor, which map projection would you use, and why?

Your friend wants to take the shortest route from North America to Japan. Using these maps, he has decided to fly across Africa to get there.

(a) Why do you think he has taken this decision?

(b) Can you think why this might not be the shortest route?